

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Report on the East German Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ministerium fuer Land- und Forstwirtschaft). Berlin W 8, Leipziger Strasse, Haus der Ministerien.

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I. Personnel

Immediately prior to 1 April 1958, there were approximately 700 employees in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. As of this date, two departments, Saat-zucht (Seed Cultivation) and Aussenhandel (Foreign Trade), were discontinued; in their place, two VVBs (Associations of Nationalized Enterprises) were established: VVB Saat-zucht, under Koehler (fnu), and VVB Im- und Export. Approximately 100 persons were transferred from the Ministry to these two VVBs, thereby reducing the labor force of the Ministry to about 600.

II. Organizational Structure as of 1 June 1958

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Minister | : | Hans Reichelt (DBP) |
| Secretary to the Minister | : | (Ruth) Tzschoppe |
| Directly subordinate to the Minister: | : | |
| a. Office of the Minister | : | (Jochen) Schilling, chief
Fromm (fnu), female secretary
Kampe (fnu), deputy chief |
| b. Head Bookkeeper | : | Werner Hille |
| c. Operational Inspection Sector | : | Hans (Johannes) Schillack, chief
Ella Schulz |
| d. Legal Sector | : | Ernst Frommhold, chief (After
31 July 1958; succeeds Dr.
Oellrich Neumann)
Hildegard Rotzoll, secretary |

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- Property rights (Bodenrechts) : Hauptreferent Brigitt Loehr
 Norms : " Ziegler (fnu)
 Processing of Appeals : " Fritz Rathmann (fled
 to West in August 1958)
 Real estate (Grundstueck) problems : Inge Ludwig
- e. General Administration Sector : (Erwin) Boback
2. State Secretary (as of 15 August 1958): Skodowski (fnu) (replacing Walter Wilke)
 : Czapowski (fnu), female secretary
 : (Gunter) Reichert, Referent
- Directly subordinate to the State Secretary :
- a. Cadre : Lorber (fnu) (Fritz Lober?)
Hauptreferentin and secretary of the Central Cadre Committee : Frau Klopsteg (fnu)
 Four or five cadre instructors
- b. Guidance of Local Councils : Aland (fnu)
 Helga Deinert, secretary
- c. Training Department : (Heinrich) Becker
 (Karl) Hinz
- d. Propaganda Department : Haberland (fnu)
3. Independent Departments of the Ministry, whose chiefs are members of the Kollegium of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:
- a. Economics (Oekonomik) Department : Dr. Josef Sommer (as of 1 June 1958)
- Head of VEG Sector : ?
 Head of MTS Sector : Heinz Lazar
 Acting Head of LPG Sector : Werner Pauli
Oberreferent : (Helmut) Ritschel
Oberreferent : Helbig (fnu)
 Head of Labor (Arbeit) Sector : Splettschesser (fnu)
- b. Plant Production Department : (Fritz) Weisshaupt
 Edith Klein, secretary
 Head of Agronomy Sector : Adam Bill (as of 1 July 1958; succeeding Heinz Possart)
Hauptreferent : Horst Nocke
 Head of Horticulture Sector :
 (Gartenbau) : Heinz Seidel
 Head of Field Cultivation : Dr. Henkel (fnu)
 Head of Plant Protection : Muscheiko (fnu)
 Special Area Soil Classification : Dr. Reimer (fnu)
 Special Area Fertilizers : Prange (fnu)

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c. Livestock Production Department : (Willi) Boenigk (as of 1958)

This department is divided into several sectors, formerly departments. The following are chiefs of sectors; the names of the sectors were not known to source.

Stopp (fmu)
Hirschberger, Manfred
Dr. Heine (fmu)
Dr. Reimer (Horst)
Schmelzer (Joachim)
Kodera (Ewald)

d. Forestry Department : Kurt Schamel
Reforestation Sector : Koenig (fmu)
Game Preserves Office : Ernst (fmu)

e. Planning, Finance, and Prices Department : Kurt Dietze
Planning Sector : Thilo Schmidt
Finance Sector : Marin Neubert
Auditing and Prices : Lindhorst (fmu)

f. Techniques and Mechanization Department : Otto Bostelmann

g. Scientific (Wissenschaft) and Foreign Relations Department : Dr. Erich Ruebensam
Jeschke (fmu)

III. Effects of the Organizational Changes

1. Weakening of the position of the Minister. Two of the most important departments, Cadre and Guidance of Local Councils, have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the State Secretary, the sole remaining deputy of the Minister. State Secretary Skodowski has been a member of the SED Central Committee for several years,¹ whereas Minister Reichelt is a member of the DBP.
2. Economy measures. These have only partially been realized, principally through the discontinuance of the deputy minister positions and the cancellation of bonuses (Leistungszulagen). On the other hand, salaries formerly paid to department chiefs continue to be paid to the new sector chiefs.

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3. Preference extended to politically reliable personnel. One major aim of the reorganization of the governmental apparatus was to engineer the dismissal of staff employees, especially older ones who were not adherents to the Party line and so were unreliable, from responsible positions, or to transfer them to less desirable positions. A list of transfers of former officials of the Ministry is given, with the names of the new positions. Several of the former deputy ministers have been demoted to chiefs of departments in district (Bezirk) councils. ✓

IV. Work of the Legal Sector (Sektor Recht)

This section of the report is devoted to a biographic sketch of Ernst Frommhold, the current chief of the Legal Sector, and to a discussion of the processing of complaints of private farmers. A list of typical complaints is given.

V. Cooperation of the Central Committee with the Ministry

The member of the Politburo, (Erich) Mueckenberger, and the chief of the agricultural department of the SED Central Committee, (Franz) Mel-lenthin, do not generally attend meetings of the Kollegium of the Ministry. Reports of activities in the Ministry are forwarded to them by SED liaison men in the divisions of the Ministry.

VI. Party and Trade Union Activities

The Ministry Party Organization (BPO) is under Max Brosselt, a former coppersmith and convinced Communist. The Trade Union (BGL) is completely controlled by the Party. The document contains a brief description of the work of the BGL. ✓

VII. Brief biographic sketches of Ministry officials are included in this section.

Copies of Beschluss 58/13, dated 4 November 1954, of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, on the management of run-down farms, and of the Arbeitsanweisung, dated 23 February 1955, to the Beschluss, are attached as annexes to the main report.

Comments:

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1. As received, Skodowski was not listed in the list of SED Central Committee members or candidates published in Neues Deutschland in July 1958.
2. Names in parentheses have been added from our records.

Distribution of Attachment (1 bound document, in German):

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